

Parker River

National Wildlife Refuge

Recreational Fishing Information

The Refuge offers some of the area's finest surf fishing. In season you may catch several species including striped bass, bluefish, and flounder. A refuge permit is not required to fish in salt water during normal hours of operation (sunrise to sunset). However, any MA resident 16 years or older must have a MA Division of Marine Fisheries recreational salt water fishing permit. For non-Ma residents, a salt water fishing permit from NH, RI, and CT can be used in lieu of a MA permit. More information can be obtained by contacting MA Division of Marine Fisheries 1-800-703-1925 (www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).

After Hours Fishing:

Walk-on access for fishing purposes is allowed with a refuge permit. The cost is \$10 in addition to the Refuge entrance fee (\$5 drive in, \$2 walk in or a federal pass). These permits are issued when portions of the beach begin to re-open (in mid to late July) and expire on Oct 31. All individuals (13 yrs or older) accompanying a permittee after hours must be actively fishing. You must be actively fishing if on the beach after hours. Camping and fires not permitted.

Where You Can Fish:

With the exception of seasonal beach closures, surf casting from

the Refuge's ocean beach is allowed year-round. Most of the Refuge beach is closed starting April 1 due to piping plover nesting season. During that season (generally April through mid August,) fishing is only allowed on the open sections of the Refuge beach. As the birds finish their breeding season, portions of the beach will be opened and fishing will be allowed in these sections. The timeframes for these openings vary from year to year, so it is best to check with Refuge Headquarters for updates.

Nelson Island: Fishing permitted Sundays year-round, and 7 days per week from mid February to Sept 1. Foot access only and limited to within 100 feet of the walking trail. Night fishing is prohibited.

Stage Island: Fishing permitted year-round by foot access only. Night fishing prohibited. Access to and from Stage Island is only by way of Sandy Point State Reservation. All persons must remain along the shore, below mean high tide, and within 5 ft of water's edge. Access to upland areas is prohibited. Access may be temporarily denied if sea ducks are nesting along the shore.

Other Fishing Opportunities:

Let's Go Fishing is a free special event held every June. This event is geared towards teaching children how to surf fish. Check the Refuge website for the specific date.

Sandy Point State Reservation and the north end of Plum Island are open year round for fishing.

Additional Regulations:

- ALL fires (including propane) are prohibited.
- Only park in open lots.
- Rods/lines must be kept within 20 feet (6 meters) of the shoreline to avoid conflicts with other beach users.
- All trash including fishing line and hooks must be packed out and disposed of properly.

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